

multi-million dollar packages and limit bonuses.

We must work closely with the Obama Administration to rigorously enforce these requirements and close potential loopholes so that taxpayers are protected.

HONORING CONSTANCE WALKER-FOWLER

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Constance Walker-Fowler is a native of Detroit who moved to Yonkers in 1997 and has been deeply involved in the community and civic organizations since her arrival.

She is Chair of the Yonkers Commission on Human Rights, where she helped to develop the language for the resolution Against Domestic Violence. She is a Life Member of the National Council of Negro Women and for the past four years president of its Hudson Valley Section.

She is also a member of the Hudson River Community Association; Sister-to-Sister Inc.; the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus; a Trustee of the Schomburg Corporation; and serves on the Advisory Board of Groundworks Hudson Valley. She is also Democratic District Leader and Secretary of the Third Ward election district.

Further, she is Secretary of the International Governing Board of Voices of African Mothers, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger in Africa.

Even further, she is dedicated to her family, often visiting her son Andre in England and helping her Aunt Mamie and her sister Norice and her family.

In short, Constance Walker-Fowler is dedicated to helping her communities from every aspect while still maintaining close and devoted ties to her family.

I congratulate her on her receiving the Humanitarian Award of the Yonkers YWCA and wish her every success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FIXING THE FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representative HONDA (D-CA), I am reintroducing the "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act" which would do two things: (1) make the Director of the Federal Voting Assistance Office a presidential appointee confirmable by the Senate, and (2) create an advisory board to strengthen oversight of the office to ensure better access to the ballot by overseas military and civilian voters.

The Federal Voter Assistance Program (FVAP) is the government's primary office for helping ensure access to the ballot for thousands of overseas voters, both civilian and military, in recent elections. This legislation is

designed to bring greater attention to the voting office in the Department of Defense and enhanced oversight to ensure that it does its job of providing greater access to voting for our soldiers, sailors and airmen, their families, as well as civilians living overseas.

The "Fixing the Federal Voting Assistance Program Act" is a necessary step in ensuring that overseas voters are counted in elections. I believe that Americans serving in the military abroad or civilians residing overseas still do not have adequate help from the government in facilitating their right of access to the ballot. Representative HONDA and I believe we need to start working on improving access to the next election now while the problems are still fresh in our minds so that we are not facing them again in 2010.

IN RECOGNITION OF SAM BURNS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam Burns, a dear friend and tireless community leader who recently passed away. Sam served as the head of the Sacramento Convention Center and Visitors Bureau and was an admired advocate for drawing tourism into Sacramento. As his family and friends gather to honor and remember his wonderful life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting one of Sacramento's most well-respected figures.

Sam was a prominent leader in the Sacramento Region, and his death leaves a tremendous void in the community. When Sam was hired by city leaders in 1972, the Memorial Auditorium was the largest local venue for conventions. Under Sam's leadership, a new Sacramento Community Center opened in 1974, finally putting Sacramento on the map as a convention host. With an \$80 million expansion in 1995, the Community Center was renamed Sacramento Convention Center Complex and is now home to dozens of major events, conventions, and community gatherings each year.

Sam was a strong supporter of all that Sacramento has to offer, from the prestigious Crocker Art Museum to Old Sacramento and the city's riverfront. The high quality of his work and his dedication to Sacramento led to the expansion of his duties in 1993, when he was named to lead the Community and Visitor Services Department. Sam became responsible for drawing large crowds to Sacramento as he promoted the Sacramento Jazz Festival and other city events.

Sam's passion and commitment resonated in his work and will not soon be forgotten by the Sacramento community. His positive impact is seen across our city in the expansion of downtown hotels and the numerous conventions held each year. Sam was a wonderful public servant and ambassador to Sacramento, but he was an even better husband and father. He leaves behind his lovely wife Betsy and three children, Brandi, Michael and Brett.

Madam Speaker, as Sam Burns' family and friends gather to honor his wonderful legacy and many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to him. Those of us who were privi-

leged enough to call him our friend will deeply miss him. I ask all my colleagues to pause and join me in paying respect to an extraordinary man, Sam Burns.

TRIBUTE TO KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, YWCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CATHY BREIDENTHAL

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Cathy Breidenthal, the longtime executive director of the YWCA of Kansas City, Kansas, who retired from that position on February 28, 2009, after nearly 23 years of dedicated service to that important community institution. Cathy's reinvigoration of the Kansas City YWCA, which included a capital campaign, coupled with a significant expansion in services and programs, will be celebrated at a "Heart of Gold" fundraiser for the institution on March 27th. The Kansas City Star recently carried an article detailing Cathy Breidenthal's service to our local YWCA community; I include it here for review by our colleagues, who I am sure join with me in recognizing the important contributions made by Cathy Breidenthal during her years of service to the YWCA of Kansas City, Kansas. We wish her well upon her well-earned retirement!

[From the Kansas City Star, Dec. 31, 2008]

YWCA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO RETIRE

(By Joy Gipple)

Cathy Breidenthal, executive director for 22 years of the YWCA of Kansas City, Kan., recently announced her retirement.

"When longtime EDs (executive directors) retire, it's kind of an initial shock," said YWCA board member Theresa Reyes Cummings. "She's really been a pillar."

"Eliminating racism, empowering women" is the branding statement for the YWCA's mission.

"The growth in those two areas is something that I feel really good about," Breidenthal said.

Breidenthal has been credited with a regeneration of the YWCA during her tenure. A major effort was the capital campaign that resulted in sweeping improvements to the facility at 1017 N. Sixth St. and a subsequent expansion in services and programs.

"That process started in 2001, which was our 100th year," Breidenthal said. "In 2002, a lot of construction development was occurring right on our block—the BPU office building and hotel, etc.—so we had some decisions to make as to whether we were going to stay and be a positive part of this (downtown revitalization) development."

The YWCA board decided the agency should stay in the original building. The project included an art gallery, theater and meeting space, as well as a health and fitness facility.

In 2003 the YWCA started its first entrepreneurial initiative: the Corner Café.

"I was looking at the opportunity and some of the amenities that are so important to urban development," Breidenthal said. "We knew there was no upscale coffee shop or café at that time, and we felt that if we were going to phase this in, we needed to do something that really showed progress and our willingness to take that leap of faith."

Underwriting support helped to get it started, and five years later the café continues to provide daily lunch, "happy hour"

cookies and coffees, catering services and culinary classes.

"Like any new business, particularly in an area that hasn't quite reached its full potential for development, it has taken some time," Breidenthal said. "I think the same is true with the art and community meeting space and the health and fitness facility."

She described people's reactions when they see the facility for the first time, or for those who remember the old building and then notice the change.

"They are truly amazed," Breidenthal said. "Every time we have an event and people are there seeing that and they realize they can rent that space, that our food is wonderful—we have an excellent chef—that it's really a quality thing . . . seeing is believing."

When Breidenthal came on board at the YWCA in 1986, she was the only full-time staff member. Today there are 15 full- or part-time employees, and that number was even larger while some government-funded programs used the new facility for a time.

A program called the Teen Pregnancy Network shifted the focus to adolescent health issues. "It really started us in that direction that is still one of the mainstays of our program," Breidenthal said.

The Resource Sharing Project was another way of using the space and providing services. "We had an entity that was an adult day care looking for space," Breidenthal explained. "We had the space but very limited programming. So it was a very win-win for a number of years until we started growing our program and needed the full facility."

Breidenthal also chairs the Downtown Shareholders Group, working on the business improvement district.

"I have a real commitment and I really care about the YWCA and the downtown," Breidenthal said. "I've been part of that urban environment for over 35 years and certainly want it to succeed."

The YWCA board is planning the transition and there will likely be a job posting in January. Breidenthal's last day will be Feb. 28.

She expects the YWCA will continue to be a leader in downtown revitalization. "Being at the crossroads of so many cultures here—certainly that can be one of our strengths and that's another area that fits with the YWCA's mission," Breidenthal said.

Theresa Reyes Cummings echoed those sentiments. "We're going to move forward and we have a lot to offer the community," Cummings said. "It's an exciting time."

HONORING CLAUDETTE J. STOTHART

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, Claudette J. Stothart is a retired teacher with vast experience in teaching, from grade school to college and who is also an active member of her community.

For 24 years she taught in New York City as a special education teacher as well as coordinating English as a Second Language courses and Social Studies. She was an adjunct Professor at Rockland Community College for 12 years and at Mercy College for 4 years. She also worked in Greenburgh as a middle school teacher during the summer months.

She worked closely with students, especially to make sure those who were merely acting

out did not become candidates for special education, while advising parents of their rights, in the process inspiring both parents and students.

She was nominated by her students for, and accepted by, Who's Who Among American Teachers.

She is a long time member of the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus, a member of Westchester Women's Leaders, the International Women's Round Table, and the African American Advisory Board.

She is a firm believer in education as a means to ease socioeconomic ills. She is deservedly receiving the Yonkers YWCA Inspiration Award and I congratulate her for her life's work in inspiring students, teachers and parents.

HILLSBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WORK TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 23, 2009

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of high school students from the Seventh Congressional District who are volunteering their time to help those in need throughout the world.

Specifically, I would like to commend hundreds of Hillsborough High School students who are volunteering for an annual fundraising event known as Shelter From The Storm 4. The event takes place on Saturday, March 28, 2009 and will raise funds to help students in Haiti and Honduras have access to pure, clean drinking water.

The students have recognized that access to clean water is so basic—yet so precious to disadvantaged communities around the world. The funds Hillsborough High School students raise will help purchase water filters, rain-water collection compartments and provide education on proper sanitation.

Organized by students, Shelter From The Storm 4 will feature numerous educational guest speakers, a three-hour concert and a special festival.

Several dozen student organizations at Hillsborough High School are playing important roles in the event's success, such as the Rotary Club and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. I also commend the leadership of all the teachers involved, who provided guidance to the students throughout the planning stages and implementation of the fundraiser.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to commend all of the Hillsborough High School students who are involved with this special fundraising event. These students are clearly working hard to make a difference and help those in need.

GENERATIONS INVIGORATING VOLUNTEERISM AND EDUCATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1388) to reauthorize and reform the national service laws:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1388, the "Generations of Invigorating Volunteerism and Education Act or the 'GIVE Act'." I would like to thank my colleague Congresswoman MCCARTHY for introducing this important legislation, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, Congressman GEORGE MILLER, for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor today.

Mr. Chair, this legislation will expand the already highly successful volunteer programs that empower community activists and improve the education and economic conditions of cities throughout the United States. It supports and increases funding for key community services programs, including AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, VISTA, National Civilian Community Corps, and Senior Corps.

The GIVE Act creates opportunities for green jobs that will contribute to energy conservation and environmental protection. It will create critical educational opportunities for disadvantaged youth and will create incentives for students to improve their communities.

Every year, more than 70,000 Americans participate in the AmeriCorps program alone, which provides relief to cities during natural disasters and reinvigorates communities. Over 50 million American volunteers build homes, organize food-drives, and improve schools through national service programs. The GIVE Act will broaden the opportunities for students and activists to participate in national service via education rewards that keep up with soaring costs of universities and Summer Service programs. After Ike and Katrina, thousands of local students worked to help rebuild communities and provide necessary services to distressed families. The GIVE Act is the critical linchpin in sustaining this civic activism.

Specifically, the GIVE Act would expand the job opportunities for Volunteers in Service to America, or VISTA, to re-integrate youth into society, increase literacy in communities through teaching opportunities in before and after-school programs, and to provide health and social services to low-income communities. VISTA is a critical step toward poverty alleviation, and the GIVE Act will equip it with the resources to fulfill its obligations.

I am pleased to see that my colleague, representative CUELLAR, revised the legislation to increase the number of volunteers from 75,000 to 250,000 members and added provisions for unemployed individuals to be included in the national service workforce, a step that will be a critical step to combating the employment crisis afflicting millions. I am also pleased that Congressman MILLER further specified that the increase in volunteers is not just designed for AmeriCorps, but for all national service programs such as the Peace Corps and Opportunity Corps, and also included language promote community based